

SCRIPTURES FOR THE BLIND

BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

OCTOBER 1942

Vol. 87, No. 8



Lew Knickerbocker, student paratrooper, receives his copy of the New Testament. Tomorrow he may be part of an invasion force somewhere

TRANSLATION

DISTRIBUTION

Items of Interest

Norway

In an official news release dated June 26 the government of Norway announced that the printing of Bibles in that country must cease, following Reichskommissar Terboven's order prohibiting further sale of paper to the Norwegian Bible Society. This discouraging news comes on top of the glowing reports of the 125th anniversary meeting of the Norwegian Bible Society, which revealed an unprecedented distribution for 1941. Up to November 3 the sale had passed 90,000, and confirmation time and Christmas were expected to carry it well beyond the 100,000 mark. This is a record figure for a population of less than 3,000,000, where every household already has its Bible, if not several, as a matter of course. It is also a record figure in the sense that never before have the Norwegians bought Bibles on such a scale. This unprecedented distribution will help to tide them over till peace returns, and the Society may resume its operations.

Thrill

The day after Christmas in 1939, the Mam Indians, living in western Guatemala, received their first shipment of the New Testament in their own language. It was a day of hilarious rejoicing. In the *Guatemala News* for May 1942, Rev. H. Dudley Peck, the translator, writes of the closing session of the Mam Bible Institute:

Excitement reached a high, when, at the close of these services, movies are shown of the arrival of the Mam New Testament on the field. The congregation sees itself come to life on the screen, in all the revealing reality of natural colors, on an occasion of memorable significance.

A Prayer For Bible Readers

by CHARLES REYNOLDS BROWN

O Thou who art the Friend and Father of men, give us renewed power to overcome our defects. Give us a renewed spirit of kindness and good will toward all our fellow beings. Help us to follow those lines of thought, of feeling, and of purpose which shall bring us peace with honor. Teach us to hide the truths of thy holy Word in our hearts, that we may not sin against thee. May those truths become a lamp unto our feet, and a light unto our path. May we so read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may enter into life eternal, through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Has any other group of Christians ever had such a thrill? Thanks for making possible this showing are due the American Bible Society, which also generously contributed to the translation and publication of the Testament.

The final "shot" of this picture showing the blue-bound book with gilded title held aloft, turned, opened for all to read, is a fitting conclusion for the closing exercises of the institute, which through the year has had it in hand as the text for all its studies.

Banquet

The churches of Tomah, Wisconsin, take good care of the soldiers in their neighborhood. At regular intervals they invite from twenty-five to fifty



Church banquet for service men at Tomah, Wisconsin

soldiers to a banquet and family night at one of the churches. The boys enjoy the singing of their favorite hymns, and telling about their background and their home folks. Secretary Taylor, of the Northwestern District, has supplied some Scripture volumes for distribution to one of the camps by Rev. Myron Z. Hovda, pastor of the First Methodist Church of Tomah, who, because the men have had no chaplain, has held services for them. Has your church a banquet room?

A Modern Mite

Secretary Ritchie of the Upper Andes Agency, in a recent letter, told of receiving the following note with a donation from one of his workers in a little village, way on the other side of the Andes near the edge of the Amazon jungle:

I read your appeal for the Emergency Fund on Friday night, and suggested that we take a collection two Sundays later. The following week an old Indian, who does not know much Spanish, asked one of our girls about this appeal, as he had not understood it. He then asked, "Can I give something? Will they accept anything from me? I have got joy in my heart now when I hear the hymns sung and the Scriptures read, and I should like to give." On being assured that he might give and his gift

(Continued on page 129)

BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

A Journal Dedicated to the Wider Distribution of the Holy Scriptures

Volume 87

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Number 8

Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread

by Gilbert Darlington

MORE Scriptures were issued from the Bible House in New York during the first seven months of 1942 than in any other similar period. The increase over 1941 in this period was 11.76 percent in Bibles, 47.25 percent in Testaments, and 59.19 percent in Portions.

Now, 1941 itself was a peak year; for its issue of 6,585,280 volumes of Scriptures was an increase of 35 percent over 1940, and the largest total ever recorded from the Bible House in New York. Truly, in wartime many people find themselves in need of the Bread of Life.

We in the United States have a most important part to play today in the world distribution of the Scriptures. The amount that the Bible Society can do is largely dependent upon the gifts that are received. Only with such gifts can it hope to do the following important things:

(1) Meet the great demand in the United States

For the Army and the Navy, the Society has ordered 2,064,500 copies of its fifteen-cent vest-pocket Testaments. Of this amount, 1,564,500 copies have been ordered bound, and many of them have been distributed. The balance of the books will be coming through before the end of this year; and if sales continue at the present rate, they will soon be distributed. For example, in June, 115,201 copies of these Army and Navy Testaments were issued; in July, 119,972 copies! It cannot be said that the American Bible Society is only "ankle-deep" in what it is planning to do for our armed forces.

(2) Publish in the United States books which normally would be published abroad.

For example, 25,400 Zulu Bibles and 52,150 Zulu Testaments, which would have been published by the British and Foreign Bible Society in London, have been published here. About one half of these have been shipped to South Africa, and have arrived safely. The Luba-Lulua and Tswa Testaments, which normally would have been printed in England,

are now being manufactured here instead. Scriptures in Dutch, French, German, Ancient and Modern Greek, Italian, Japanese, Norwegian, Polish, and Russian have also been or are being printed. These will be forwarded by mail or by shipment in every way that is possible.

(3) Forward funds to foreign countries to have Bibles and Scriptures printed there

The Society has forwarded funds, or has applied for permits to forward funds, to print Russian Scriptures in Finland; Slovak Bibles in Prague; Hungarian Scriptures in Hungary; and Malagasy Gospels in France and Madagascar. In Switzerland it has arranged for the printing of Scriptures in French and other languages; and it is planning to print in Bulgarian, Greek, Hungarian, Polish, Russian, and Ukrainian in Europe when the funds are available.

(4) Supply paper and binding materials to have Bibles, Scriptures, and Testaments printed

Last year the Society supplied tons of paper and binding materials to the Dutch East Indies, and is ready to make a further shipment as soon as this territory is again opened up.

There are those who say that food will win the war, and that food will dictate the peace. From its experience of one hundred and twenty-six years of faithful Scripture distribution, your American Bible Society can say with unquestionable authority: "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."

Food alone is not enough. In addition to food, the world needs the Bread of Life, and this the war-torn countries of the world can find only in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

To those good friends who have contributed to this important work, we say: "Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness."

"Lord, evermore give us this bread."

Mr. Terry writes in connection with this incredible experience: "I have thought that it might someday be fun to stand up in a sales convention in America and tell this story, where they travel across the country to meet and debate the best kind of stationery for their letters, the best kind of art work for their letter-heads, the best approach and wording in their appeals and how best to follow up their first appeal at scientific intervals."

A Prayer Project for China

A story of a missionary hero, of moonlight digging by the Chinese Army, of a town that crossed a river twice

by Myron E. Terry

Secretary, China Christian Literature Society

WHEN we reached Sian on January 1, I started to open my two remaining boxes of books in the Mission compound. I opened the first, but before I could start to pry up the lid of the second, every one of the more than four hundred books in the first was sold.

Here was real famine. For more than three years, the only Christian books that had reached China's great North-west were a few that had come in the baggage of an occasional missionary. If someone wanted to buy one, he must come personally. He must be introduced, and must bring credentials from a pastor or a known Christian worker. Never had I seen anything like this in mission work!

It seemed imperative that we at least try to do something to relieve such a famine. One hundred and twenty carbon copies of a brief letter were sent to the mission stations in the North-west. It said simply: "The writer is planning to bring in a shipment of books and Bibles for this area. If you will make up your order it may be included. Please act immediately, as this trip probably cannot be repeated."

In three weeks orders came for 270,000 portions, and that still did not provide for any surplus depot stock.

I had written to Kaifeng, asking one of the missions there if some books could be shipped to them from Shanghai, and if they could help in some way to get them across to me. A reply came that it was entirely impossible; that if an attempt were made, it would only involve them more deeply in difficulties and would be quite dangerous. But the decision was not to give up without a try.

Shanghai was asked to send about five tons of the books ordered to me in Kaifeng. Then I wrote to Kaifeng, and told them that these books were on the way; that I was planning to try to go there to get them, and asked if they would be willing to help.

What happened from then onwards must be under-

stood as a prayer project—else, it cannot be understood at all. Numberless small events worked together, impossible difficulties dissolved from the path; death came close but always missed.

One morning, at family prayers at Sian, we discussed the plans and realized that, humanly speaking, they looked impossible. The books would have to be brought through the lines; and neither army wanted things brought through. But, after prayers that day, I felt that the project was launched; and after that people all over the North-west began to pray. Months later, I met two American newspaper reporters who had been travelling through the North-west, and they said, yes, they knew all about this project; that whenever they had chanced to stop with missionaries for a meal or for the night, they had heard it prayed for. In the help that so many people gave in so many ways, I count as most important the fact that literally hundreds of people were praying steadily that the books would come through. A number of people asked groups in the homelands to pray also.

At the end of February, I reached Chengchow, and got a pass from the Chinese military to cross the Yellow River. The fact that there was no delay in getting this pass, gave me the first encouragement that the way would open. At the river bank I was held up several days by a battle nearby on the opposite bank. When it died down, I crossed, and went the thirty miles to Kaifeng, without meeting a single Japanese soldier. Outside the wall of the mission I stopped, and, more from courtesy than from anticipation of trouble, sent in a note asking if I should come in. A reply came out, "Go back! If you come in you will not be allowed to return, as there are new and very strict regulations. We are sorry to be so inhospitable, but beg of you to follow our advice. Let us know where you are, and we will try to send the books out to you."

It was near dusk, and I knew no place to go nearer

than the river bank thirty miles away. I had gone about a mile, when two soldiers shouted to me to stop, and came up with fixed bayonets and grim faces and wanted to know who I was and where I was going. I thought I'd be taken into the city, and wondered how I could explain that I was leaving the city, when I had never been reported as arriving. A few phrases of Japanese that I had learned in preparation eased the tension a bit, and I named a little village a few miles out as the place where I was going for the night. They looked through my baggage, and let me go on.

The little village was a place where my cart puller knew someone; but when we got there, there was no place to stay. We started on, and finally found a little mat-shed inn off the main road and about five miles from the city. For a couple of days I stayed there out of sight, my carter acting as messenger to the city. The next morning a note came out from the city saying that they had tried every possible way, and could not hope to send the books out to me. I got ready to start back to the river and Chengchow. The note added that they had one last hope, and would try sending me fifty parcels by post to a certain town in the country where I might be able to receive them.

Returning to the river and crossing again I went three days later to this little town of Chung Mu, and received the fifty parcels. We had found the tiny hole in the dyke. Chung Mu, between Kaifeng and Chengchow, was in the path of the flood when the course of the Yellow River was changed by the Chinese army in 1938 to stop the invading army. The new channel of the river went to the west of the town; so it was left on the east bank in occupied territory and was put on the Japanese maps as part of the conquered territory. But in 1940 the river again made a minor change in its course,—probably helped considerably by some moonlight digging by the Chinese army,—and Chung Mu switched across to the west bank into free territory. But the Japanese do not admit that they lose territory, and kept it on the maps as under their control. The books were mailed from Kaifeng out to Chung Mu; but to get there they had to cross the river, and I received them as they came across.

For a week fifty parcels came every day; and then the authorities apparently were satisfied that there was nothing in the parcels except Christian literature, and they began to come at the rate of two hundred per day, and often much more if there was room on the mail carts. The postage for the short haul from Kaifeng to the river was much more than the cost; so I've no doubt that helped too. Several oxcarts were kept busy hauling the books from the river into Chengchow, and in less than a month I had more than 6,000 parcels, about 12 tons.

For five weeks after the first lot of parcels came,

there was a big battle in progress north of the river; and no books came. It looked as though we had done all we could. In Loyang a big pile of mail bags on the station platform was set on fire in a bombing. A large part of it was the books I had shipped west. Nearly two tons of books and Bibles burned there, but that was almost the only loss there was during the whole time books were en route. There were many rumors that the Japanese were coming to Chengchow, and the local folks urged me to go on west and not get caught. I actually packed



Bibles by the ton for West China

and engaged a cart to go. But the night before, I could not feel that I should go. Letters had begun to pour in, expressing gratitude for the books that had gone through, and telling how many people were praying for the success of the project. Books were arriving at Kaifeng, and being stacked up there waiting for a chance to come across. That night, after I went to bed, it seemed that these books must come through, and I prayed that the stream would again break through the dyke. The next morning I told the carters I had decided not to go.

And they did break through. Soon after the middle of May, they were coming at the rate of a ton every two days, and with some minor interruptions of a week or two at a time that kept up for the next four months.

By mid-August all of the big original orders for books had been filled, and by mid-September fifty-five tons had come through. Almost all of it had been shipped on to its destination by post. We owe a deep debt of gratitude to the efficiency maintained by the Chengchow post office, operating so close to the fighting lines and completely bombed out of its own quarters, and to the spirit of cooperation of the men in that post office. The literature famine in the North-west was definitely broken—the Bible depot at Sian had bigger stocks of Bibles than any other point in Free China; the bookstore started by

the English Baptist Mission in Sian was stocked with enough to keep it going for perhaps two years or more; practically every mission and church center in four big provinces had the most needed supplies. Perhaps 40,000 people had Bibles who had not been able to get them before.

But there was no evident slackening of the demand. When people actually held books in their hands and realized that it was a reality, they seemed to plan bigger orders than they had done at first. In August an increasing volume had begun to come through for Szechwan and for other provinces beyond to the south and south-east; and if we could have kept the route open for another six months, or even for three, big stocks could have been built up in those provinces also. It was much easier to ship southward along the motor route from Paoki to Chengtu, Chungking and on down to Kunming than it was to ship northward, as the trucks coming in over the Burma road, loaded down with all kinds of supplies, were going back comparatively empty. But we can feel only gratitude that so much came in when it did.

When the freezing orders came, my checks to Kaifeng for the paying of expenses there could no longer be cashed. They began to use money coming in at the hospital to pay the postage. But, during the summer, their only doctor had passed away, and it seemed necessary to close the hospital. A strong appeal went to Mission headquarters to keep the hospital open, as otherwise the flow of books would have to stop. It was kept open, doing what work it could without a regular doctor, and the books kept coming.

Finally the trap was sprung. After September 7, books stopped coming across, and there were many rumors that the Japanese were planning to cross the river. Chengchow had lived with such rumors for several years, and it didn't seem the thing to do to shut up shop and go just because of rumors. Yet, on the other hand, there was the probability that, when we knew they were coming, it would be too late to go. On September 30 I had word that some parcels, probably about two hundred, had come across the river by a more circuitous route, and on the 1st of October I started my man off to get them.

Then came the Japanese who entered Chengchow October 4.

The man I had sent to the river for the books showed up several days after I left, minus everything but his life, and with a harrowing tale to tell. The Japanese retired from Chengchow at the end of October; but fighting continued at Chung Mu for more than a month. Nevertheless, Bill Simpson succeeded in getting the two hundred parcels of books from the post office there with the help of a Christian officer in the Chinese army, who had seen them and was much concerned for their safety. About a month

later the Chinese army did a little more judicious digging and Chung Mu crossed the river again to the east bank, taking with it the last of the invading army; but the poor little flood-ridden, battle-scarred town came over to our side for long enough to do its bit in getting prayer answered.

At Loyang I found 28 cases of Bibles, about a ton, that had been on the way from Shanghai by another route for more than a year, and I started with them for Sian. The railroad is still running west from Loyang; but it follows the bank of the Yellow River and at many points is under artillery fire from across the river. We started about dusk, and a little after midnight stopped outside the town of Ling Pao, a little back from a bridge that was in easy range of the guns and could not be crossed. In the dark I got the cases loaded onto four hand drawn carts, and by daylight was across this most dangerous spot. It is about 60 miles across this gap where the trains do not run, although rails have been laid around the destroyed bridges.

On the evening of the second day we had gone forty-five miles, to a little town where I heard that the railroad was accepting freight to haul across the rest of the gap, when a train could slip through at night. At the station I was told that, if I left the freight there, it might be weeks before they could get it through; and when I looked at the stacks of freight piled on the platform, I thought it might be never. They said, however, that they were going to try to run a train of three cars through that night; and if I cared to pile my boxes in a car and ride with them, I was free to take the chance. I piled them into an open freight car about noon, and got in with them for the all-night ride; and the car was soon piled high with other freight.

We started at dark, and about nine stopped inside the tunnel that leads into Tungkuan, the city at the point where the Yellow River turns to the east after flowing south for some six hundred miles. Tungkuan has been under fire across the river for nearly four years, and it is a deserted, destroyed city indeed. Outside the tunnel mouth, in the center of the city, is a bridge on which the enemy guns are kept trained night and day. The crew searched through the train, covered the fires in the engine, and after half an hour of preparation, we pulled slowly out of the tunnel. Two nights before, a train had been badly shelled. The train rumbled onto the bridge, and my breath stopped. I shrunk myself into as small a target as I could; but the car was too full for me to be able to get behind any cover. We rumbled off the bridge, and as we rolled on into the peaceful country, I slowly expanded again and drew a deep breath. I looked off across the wheat fields to the north, where there was no more Yellow River. How good to be in a free land again!

The North-west project was done.

Serving a War-racked World

THE letter pictured here was received, late in August, in an official business envelope from the postmaster at Miami, Florida, who wrote: "This article of mail is being forwarded to you under cover because of being received by us in a damaged condition through forces beyond our control."

Lt. Col. P. W. Huntington had written in February, saying, "I am on foreign duty as force chaplain, completely isolated, and hundreds have requested copies of the New Testament. I will appreciate your immediate shipment."

What a satisfaction it is to know that the books arrived for Mother's Day somewhere where our native sons are guarding the outposts of their land that was built upon the Bible, and must fight through to victory, that the Bible may become the guiding light of all mankind.

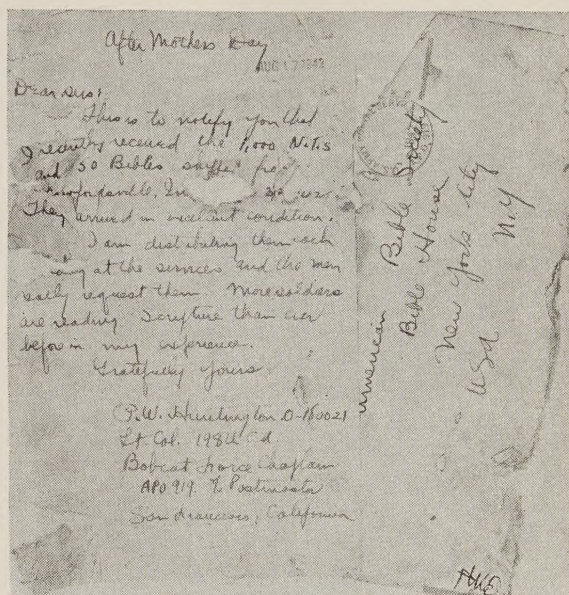


Courtesy Kershaw's, Wilmington, Delaware

Lt. Col. P. W. Huntington

While the program of supplying our men in the nation's service with the Scriptures is the largest item in the War Emergency work of the Society, it is by no means all that is included. Quite as important is the furnishing of Scriptures to prisoners of war. The gracious privilege of doing this has now been the Society's since July 1940. Since that time the packages have been passing through the barbed wire for war prisoners and refugees in Germany, Italy, France, Egypt, India, South Africa, the West Indies, Canada, and the United States. To the first of September the total had reached almost 300,000 volumes in twenty-five different languages.

It is a great satisfaction to have on record in the



Society's office in Geneva the acknowledgment cards from the "men of confidence" in the various camps, as well as occasional letters which open the otherwise fast closed doors for just a little glimpse of the life of the prisoners. We quote from a letter dated Stalag III, Camp 415, March 15, 1942:

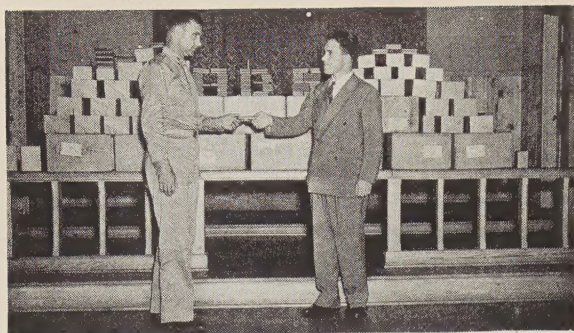
As Sgt. Major McPhillips has explained to you in his letter, I have tried to make myself responsible for the organization of Protestant worship in this camp. There are approximately 280 Protestants here, of whom forty-five attend the services regularly and take an active interest in religious affairs.

We are very grateful to you indeed for the books which you have sent, as they will prove invaluable to us in our work here. I expect the remaining Testaments and Bibles will be arriving shortly. As soon as you have any hymn books available, we should be very pleased to have same; also one copy of the hymns with tunes would be much appreciated; we have formed a church choir.

Recently half a dozen of our very enthusiastic members started a study group, and take it in turns to lead the meeting. We have already studied one of St. Paul's Epistles, and will now start using the material which you have sent us.

Some 40,000 volumes have gone, principally through the Église Réformée de France, to destitute churches in France and Belgium. In other European areas, formerly served by the British and Foreign Bible Society, have gone still another 27,000 volumes. The Slovak Bible, completely sold out, has been reprinted by the Society, probably in Prague. From the outbreak of the war until Pearl Harbor the exten-

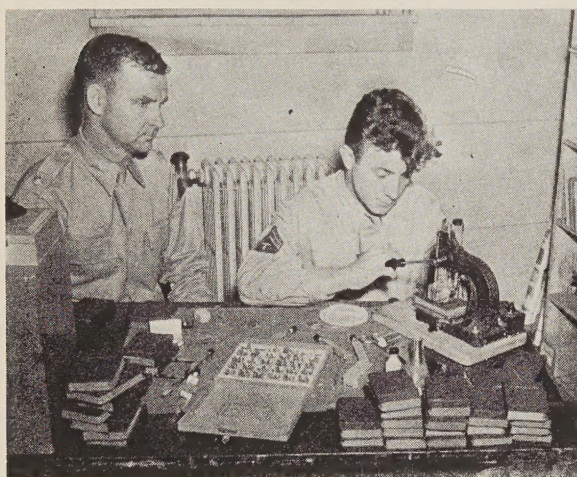
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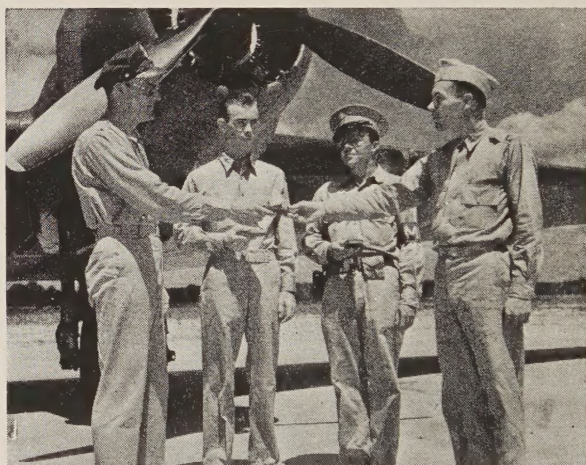
Harry Jaeger, of the American Bible Society, presents 7,000 New Testaments to Chaplain William L. Cooper



The chaplain welcomes a constant stream of men requesting Testaments



The chaplain provided the gold-stamping machine and equipment from his chaplain's fund. Thousands of officers and men thus had their names placed on their Testaments



Officers as well as men cherish their personal Testaments



Two recruits, both veterans of the First World War, receive their Testaments. They remember how the American Bible Society supplied them and millions of other men with similar books in 1917-18



Chaplain Cooper distributes some of the 7,000 Testaments supplied by the American Bible Society



A tank driver receives his Testament from the chaplain



Making the most of a breathing spell in tank training

The Bible at Fort Benning

MORE than 31,000 volumes of the American Bible Society's Scriptures have been distributed to the men in this training center nestling in the Georgia hills. It is a great camp where the great Book is bringing great peace to many troubled hearts. At a staff meeting in June, Maj. Gen. Willis D. Crittensburg, commanding officer of the Second Armored Division, stated, "I want all of my men to have at least a New Testament before we leave for this next maneuver."

The eagerness to possess and read the sacred volumes is intense. One evening, at an open-air serv-

While learning how to fold their parachutes, these men are receiving from their chaplain their personal copies of the New Testament

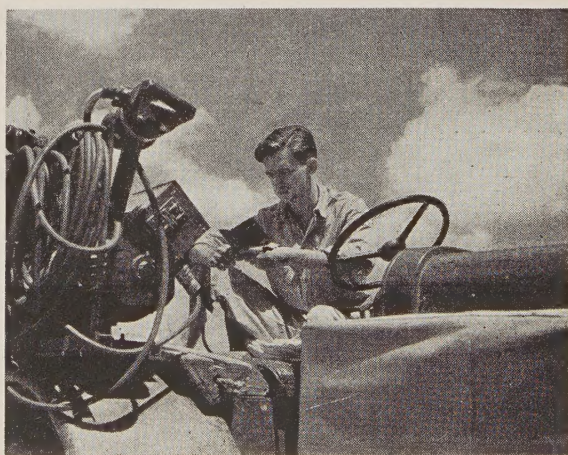


ice in a small amphitheater, attended by some five hundred men, the invitation to come forward and receive their personal copies of the Word of God was met with a thronging mob, that seemed to be saying, "I must have one before they are all gone—please save one for me."

For the day rooms and barracks, one hundred Bibles were also provided, to go with the men into the field or overseas wherever the call of duty shall demand.

Credit is gladly given for the use of these pictures and for the cover picture to "Second Armored Division Photo" and to the Base Photographic Section, Lawson Field, Fort Benning, Ga.

A member of the alert crew. His equipment, put into action on a moment's notice, may save many lives. His little book, always in action, has saved many souls

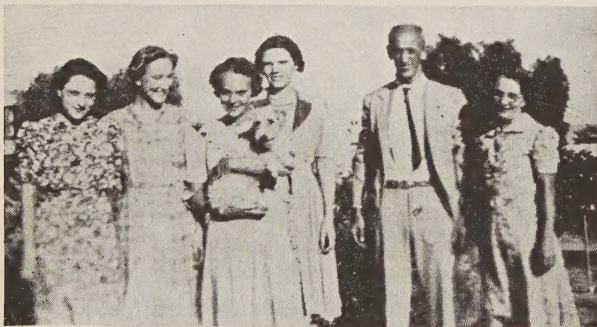


Distributor Smith

by Henry H. Ragatz

"MY car has traveled over twelve hundred miles a week during the past three months. We have been driving over the backroads of the desert, away from the highways and civilization, where we have found many bedfast with tuberculosis. During one of these trips in July the car broke down. I had with me my wife and Miss Leona Fairfield, from the Missionary Training Institute of Nyack, N. Y. There was nothing to do but to leave them in the car, and start walking for help. It was early in the morning, but the temperature was well over 110 I should guess. Sand kept sifting into my shoes. Pretty soon my feet became sore; finally they were raw and bleeding. Five miles, ten, fifteen, still no sign of habitation. The road was no more than faint wagon marks across the desert. There was no hope of another car coming along; so I had to keep walking. Thirst began to get the better of me, but I kept walking. Twenty miles, twenty-five, finally, toward evening, after walking thirty-one miles in the desert sun, I saw a ranchhouse.

"The cowboys would give me no water; instead, they made me drink lukewarm coffee. They put food, water, and blankets (the nights are cold on the desert) into a truck, and went back for the women. They found them all right, but just a little thirsty. I could not step on my feet nor put on shoes for ten days.



Mr. and Mrs. Smith (at right) with cotton camp missionaries

"This is just one of many experiences I have had while traveling over the state of Arizona as distributor for the American Bible Society."

So writes Oscar L. Smith, of Tucson, to the Denver office. His is a saga of Christian service on a mission frontier, not "across the water," but in "our own backyard."

An earlier report states, "Ending on Christmas day, I was able to hold Christmas services in nearly thirty cotton camps, and two Christmas services in the Arizona state prison at Florence. Distributed many Bibles and Testaments, and Christmas gifts and candy to over two thousand children in the camps. Had invitations to be in fifteen different migrant camps on Christmas Eve. They have no religious services, except those we bring. The public



Mr. Smith presents Bibles to Mrs. Dean for her migrant-camp Sunday school

address system on my car has increased our effectiveness a great deal."

The Secretary recalls how the public address system is used. There are a number of people at each camp who welcome the opportunity to worship, either in one of the tents, or out in the open. Many of these transients, however, either due to indifference or self-consciousness about appearance, refuse to leave the shelter of their tents while services are being held. While the song service was in progress, the Secretary noticed several men sitting in the doorways of their tents, singing the hymns. As he spoke over the microphone, he could see many others listening.

"The churches of Tucson have joined with me in some of my work. The Palo Verde Baptist Mission sent seven cars of people out to Eleven-mile Camp. Once they sent out a choir of twenty-five voices. The Wesleyan Class of the Methodist church, young folks from the Salvation Army, a group from the First Church of Christ in Christian Union, the First Church of the Nazarene, the First Southern Baptist Church, the Mexican Baptist Church, Rev. Robert R. Marquis, a Presbyterian missionary, and Rev. William J. Foley, returned missionary from Africa, of the Christian and Missionary Alliance,

Rev. Albert Stewart of the American Sunday School Union, and our own four young women,—three from Nyack, and one from the National Bible Institute in New York, along with my wife,—all have helped.

"From Protestant churches all over the United States and Canada have come dolls, toys, games, candy and fruit, gasoline and supplies, to make this work possible. I cannot tell you the number of Bibles and Testaments I have given away free to the needy people; Gospel distribution has run into the thousands. God has been good to us, and through his help and the prayers of countless people everywhere, souls were won for the Master."

An ex-service man of the last war, Mr. Smith is in Tucson because of the climate. By the strength of his two hands and his faith in God, he erected the two-room home in which he and his wife live. One room serves as kitchen and dining room; the other as bedroom, office, and living room. The Secretary had the pleasure of eating Sunday dinner with Mr. Smith and his wife. It was an experience he will not soon forget. In spite of the packing cases used for chairs, the home was pervaded with a spirit which few mansions possess. Mr. and Mrs. Smith both feel the needs of the migrant cotton pickers more acutely than their own personal wants. Later, however, friends sent chairs and a table, and have made it possible to plant some trees. Mr. Smith writes that "morning glories are growing over the outside of the house now."

Because the Rocky Mountain District budget can not expand to keep pace with the growing needs for Scripture distribution, it was recently necessary to write to the distributors working in this territory, asking for an estimate of future needs, and suggesting the possibility of a forced reduction in commissions. Mr. Smith's "territory" is the third largest state in

the Union. His "customers" are widespread, and, for the most part, poverty-stricken migrant workers or health seekers. It is obvious that, even if he were to dispose of all of his stock by sale (he personally gives away many volumes) a full hundred-percent commission would not provide a living, and a fifty-percent commission would probably no more than pay actual traveling expenses. Yet, in response to the inquiry, Mr. Smith writes: "Your letter of June 6 at hand. Any way you think best will suit me. I shall continue to get American Bible Society editions



Rev. S. M. Polin, Jewish evangelist, making use of Mr. Smith's public address system

to the people here, even if I don't receive any commission. I estimate sales on cheaper Bibles will be higher this fall, because of the increased number of gospel services I shall hold. But any plan you work out will be suitable to me."

Is that not a practical application of the teaching of the Master? And is not Mr. Smith and the work he is doing a challenge to the rest of us to join with him in seeing that the Book goes forth?

(Continued from page 123)

sive East Indies was administered by the American Bible Society.

In many ways the Society has undertaken to aid the British and Foreign Bible Society in the conduct of its great work, which has suffered extremely because of the war.

As reported last month, the American Bible Society has just been able, after months of negotiation, to send as a gift to the British Society a binding and folding machine, to replace one completely destroyed by bombs during a raid on London in the summer of 1941.

Arrangements are now in progress to send 125,000 French francs to Madagascar for the printing of the Malagasy New Testament for the large Christian population there, which has been cut off from the normal supply from London.

A further serious problem is now beginning to appear in the matter of the supply of German Scriptures for the German churches, due to restrictions, economic and otherwise, by the Nazi Government. Aid in this situation might be rendered through the Society's office in Geneva. The Bible must be kept in circulation in Germany.

Bible-loving Americans have a wonderful opportunity now to do the major share in this most important service to the nations. Probably, the Bible was never more in demand than at this moment. The American Bible Society is ready to do far more than it has ever done, if the means are at hand. The Emergency Fund for the year has been set at \$306,200. Surely, every reader of the RECORD, and every church to which the readers report the need, will want to help. Gifts should be sent to the Treasurer, marked "Emergency Fund."

A Good Year in Mexico

MEXICO is now our ally. One of the happy eventualities that we may contemplate when the victory is won, is a cleaving tie with our neighbor below the Rio Grande that will bring many blessings to both nations. Preparation for these good things is already underway.



Colporteurs Interián and Valencia start out on a new day's work after a night's rest in the thick woods in the territory of Quintana Roo

Secretary Marroquín, of the Society Agency in Mexico, reports that 1941—the first year of the administration of President Camacho—was one of stabilization and promise. Highways and irrigation projects have been extended. Labor conditions have improved. Elementary education has advanced and entered even the most isolated country districts. Illiteracy is constantly being reduced. But, best of all, in matters religious, there is liberty, tolerance, and respect on the part of the authorities.

Then, continues Secretary Marroquín, “the Lord has done great things for us; whereof we are glad”; for 1941 was the best year in the circulation of the Scriptures in all the history of the work there, which began in 1826. The Society's distribution in 1940 more than doubled that of the year before; but last year's figure exceeded that of 1940 by another forty-four-percent. These 274,292 books were distributed not only in Spanish, but in Arabic, Armenian, Bulgarian, Chinese, English, French, German, Greek, Hebrew, Italian, Portuguese, and Swedish.

It was also the best year in voluntary contributions to the Society by churches and individuals, the gifts exceeding by more than twenty-percent those of the banner year just preceding.

The secret of this success, the continuance of which will mean so much to future understanding between the neighbor nations, is the colporteur—the man with the pack on his back. There were twenty-nine of these consecrated men who gave their full time, traveling over mountain and valley by train, bus, canoe, ship, horse, donkey, bicycle, auto, and airplane. Beside these men were 130 distributors and volunteer workers, both men and women, including ministers, missionaries, and lay people. The accompanying pictures were chosen from several which Secretary Marroquín recently sent to the Bible House. It is the spirit of these men—their singleness of purpose, their fearlessness, their kindness and patience and tact, their utter consecration, their unquestioning belief in the Word—that comes nearer than anything else to a human embodiment of what the American Bible Society is; for the colporteur seeks out those who would probably otherwise never know that there was a Word of God, and sees that such empty lives are filled. What brings promise in Mexico today will do the same anywhere on earth where men are willing to go forth to sow the seed among their countrymen. This the American Bible Society, in spite of every obstacle, is undertaking to do in our own land and in over forty other countries abroad.

The tenth triennial colporteurs' conference held in Mexico City in October 1939. A similar conference meets this month in the city of Torreón, Coahuila. Secretary Marroquin is seated third from the left. The elderly lady at the left is a blind Biblewoman, who has been distributing the Scripture for forty-one years



(Continued from inside front cover)

would be received, he went away happy, and the following Friday night, just before the service began, he got up and presented me with ten cents "for the collection to be taken on Sunday, while I have it."

As I took the ten-cent piece, and turned to take down the collection box in which to place it, I had a sudden consciousness that Christ was right there at my side looking on, as when he watched the widow put in her two mites. That old Indian lives all alone, has no ground nor house of his own, but had worked for three days that week at thirty cents a day and a meal.

Behavior

Chaplain Morris S. Roe, of Fort Bliss, Texas, recently wrote the Bible House as follows:

I wish to tell you the experience of Lt. Col. A. M. Lawrence, our commanding officer, concerning the influence of the Bibles you gave his men—9th Colored Battalion, Fort Eustis, Virginia. Each man was given a Bible for his own use.

When order came for these men to be moved to the vicinity of New Orleans, they took their Testaments with them, and Colonel Lawrence accompanied them on their travel. While on the train, they read their Bibles in-

BIBLE SUNDAY—1942

Universal Bible Sunday falls this year on December 13, although many churches will celebrate it a week earlier on the second Sunday in Advent. Whenever it is observed, let it be done with earnestness and much prayer. As in all times of great distress the people are turning to God. They crave the comfort and guidance of his Word. Bookstores are with difficulty keeping their stock of Bibles adequate to meet the demand. Enlisted men are begging their chaplains for copies. Again man's extremity is God's opportunity. The theme for Bible Sunday this year is "Watch Your Scripture Reading."

If one of the permanent results of Bible Sunday in 1942 shall be the formation in the lives of thousands of Americans of regular, effective, personal use of the Bible, nothing could be more full of promise for the achieving of a lasting peace.

In a few weeks every pastor in America will receive his packet of Bible Sunday materials. Let RECORD readers see that in their church there is this year a purposeful observance of Universal Bible Sunday.

stead of engaging in nonessential activities. Colonel Lawrence stated it was good to see these men take such an interest in the Bible.

After arriving in the vicinity of New Orleans, these men were commended for their excellent behavior while aboard the train. It was said by the trainmen, that in all their experience of transporting troops, they had not found one troop of soldiers that excelled these men in behavior.

Colonel Lawrence wishes me to express his thanks to you for the gift of Bibles to these men under his command, and the help they brought; and may I join with him in expressing gratitude for the fine work you are doing for God, and for the men of our armed forces.

Armor

Thomas R. Jones, a master sergeant at Camp Livingston, La., wrote Secretary North in August as follows:

Your kind gift of a minion Bible reached me a few days ago. Please accept my sincere appreciation for this most excellent "Soldier's Guide to Action."

In times like these, we who are soldiers must strengthen our belief in the ultimate victory of goodness, mercy, and justice over fascist barbarism. Our Axis enemies have murdered and pillaged the innocents of all the earth. To meet and defeat them—and we must—we need a stronger faith and better armor. To the people of foreign lands we will carry not only our guns and tanks and planes, but—more important—our belief in the worth of the individual, his right to freedom, his right to a free conscience, his right to have "freedom from want" as our Commander in Chief has well said.

As a Negro soldier, I know well the fate in store for minority peoples, should Hitler and his Axis partners succeed in their plans for world conquest. With religion, with education, with progress, the Negro people will surely be exterminated by the bloody-handed hangmen of Berlin, Rome, and Tokio. Every ounce of determination we possess is going, and will go, to defeat decisively the enemies of all decent humanity. I'm sure your gift will aid me and my men in the difficult days ahead in keeping our eyes and hearts attuned to the "cause of the high calling," until we come home again.

Circulation Up

In a letter to the field workers in Cuba, Rev. J. G. Molina, of the West Indies Agency, wrote on June 20:

The circulation in the West Indies during the six-months from November 30, 1941, to May 31, 1942, comforts, heartens, and stimulates us to redouble our efforts, in the presence of the thirst after God among the people. In spite of the serious difficulties of transportation, our records reveal the distribution of 6,694 Bibles, 6,338 Testaments, and 59,970 Portions, a total of 73,002 volumes, throughout the West Indies during this first half year.

Since the total circulation in the Agency for 1941 was 132,142, it would appear that a good record is in the making.



Editorial Comment



BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD

*A Journal Dedicated to the Wider
Distribution of the Holy Scriptures*

Editors: THE SECRETARIES

Address correspondence to Francis
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57th Street, New York



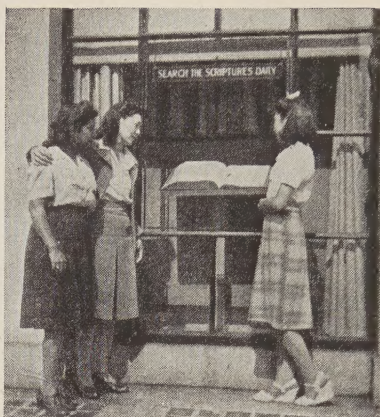
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To EDITORS: *The Bible Society Record* invites reprinting of its articles in whole or in part. Its contents are not copyrighted.

AS we go to press, the church and missionary leaders in New York are awaiting the arrival of the S.S. Gripsholm, which includes in its passenger list Rev. and Mrs. Robert O. Franklin from Thailand. In a subsequent issue of the RECORD we hope to include a story of some of the experiences that have marked the recent stormy months of the Franklins' life on the field, and the prospects of further Scripture distribution in Thailand.

THE Presbytery of Seattle announces the thirteenth annual Bible Mastery Month for October. The book chosen for this year is the First Epistle of the Thessalonians. The plan is to read the book once a day every day of the month. Since 1930 thousands of persons in almost every state of the Union and the provinces of Canada, as well as foreign lands, have joined this program, which is heartily endorsed by the American Bible Society.

THE accompanying picture was taken this summer in front of the Bible House. The three young ladies



are all employed by the Bible Society. Although not acquainted before they came to the Bible House, they have become fast friends. They spent this summer's vacation together. It is significant that the Bible Society, which does an international business with the book of all nations, should be instrumental in forming international friendships. Miss Bina Sucheron (left) is Hindu; Miss Lily Ibata (center) is Japanese; Miss May Wong (right) is Chinese. They are all active members of Christian churches.

FOR information about free copies of the Gospel of St. John to be given to those who are ill, aged or shut-in (jail inmates included), apply to Elizabeth Merriam, Framingham, Massachusetts.

SECRETARY STIFLER will be on the air for two more months, giving his annual series of talks on the Bible over the Blue Network. The theme this year is "Every Man's Book," and the remaining topics are—October 1, "Riding the Storm"; October 8, "One Egg and Coffee"; October 15, "The Secret of England's Greatness"; October 22, "One Hundred Million Bibles"; October 29, "What the Pew-rack Said"; November 5, "Hungry Hearts"; November 12, "A Crack in the Door"; November 19, "Is the Bible Going Modern?"; November 26, "Thank God for the Bible (Thanksgiving)."

Book Titles from the Bible

THE influence of the Bible in American life is revealed in a list of 1,093 book titles, taken from the Bible, of English and American books of fiction, drama and poetry, recently compiled by the Rev. Robert B. Pattison of Briarcliff Manor, New York. Most of these books are of recent origin. A list of the titles with Scripture references, arranged by books of the Bible, is obtainable from the American Bible Society, 25¢ a copy.

August Meeting of the Board

THE fourth stated meeting of the Board of Managers of the American Bible Society in its one hundred and twenty-seventh year was held at the Bible House, Park Avenue and 57th Street, New York City, on Thursday, August 6, 1942, at 3:30 p. m., Mr. Arlando Marine in the chair.

Devotional exercises were conducted by Mr. Harry Hodges.

The minutes of the third stated meeting of the year were approved.

Mr. Graham Stewart was assigned to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Rev. A. L. Warnshuis, D.D., was elected a ministerial member of the Board and assigned to the Committee on Foreign Agencies.

Subject to his resignation as a Vice President, Mr. Frank H. Mann was elected a General Secretary, this election to take effect on or before October 1, 1942.

Mr. Rome A. Betts was appointed a General Secretary, and Dr. James Oscar Boyd was appointed Secretary for Versions.

The minutes of the various standing committees were presented and their recommendations adopted.

A letter from Rev. L. A. McMurray, Mutoto, Africa, stating that the first shipment of the Luba-Lulua Bibles had arrived on May 13, and expressing the deep gratitude and thanks of the recipients, was read.

President Manson was absent because of illness, and the Treasurer was requested to send the best wishes of the Board for his speedy recovery.

The meeting was adjourned.

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Rev. R. W. Bayless, D.D., 224 McAllister St., San Francisco, Cal.

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Rev. J. S. N. Tross, Ph.D., D.D., 329 S. Brevard St., Charlotte, N. C.

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Rev. V. C. Hodges, D.D., 5424 Woodland Ave., Cleveland, Ohio.

Dallas—Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Kansas

Rev. G. A. Hobart Sheppard, D.D., 2549 Elm St., Dallas, Texas.

Depositories—To Which Orders for Scriptures Should Be Sent

New York City—Bible House, Park Ave. and 57th St. New York, New Jersey, Penna., Del., Maryland, D. C., Virginia, W. Va.

Atlanta, Georgia—85 Walton St. No. Carolina, So. Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Tenn., Alabama, Mississippi.

Chicago, Illinois—35 E. Wacker Drive Ohio, Ky., Ind., Ill., Iowa, Mo., Mich., Wis., Minn., N. Dak., S. Dak., Neb., Kan.

Dallas, Texas—1914 Main St. Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, Colorado, New Mexico.

San Francisco, California—224 McAllister St. Wash., Ore., Calif., Nevada, Mont., Idaho, Wyo., Utah, Ariz., Alaska, Hawaii.

Foreign Agencies

West Indies—Rev. James Innes, Neptuno 629, Havana, Cuba.

Mexico—Sr. H. T. Marroquin, Apartado 1373, Mexico City.

Caribbean—Rev. Raymond R. Gregory, Bible House, Box J, Cristobal, Canal Zone.

Upper Andes—John Ritchie, Apartado 448, Girón Camaná 836, Lima, Peru.

La Plata—Rev. P. Penzotti, Calle Corrientes 728, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Brazil—Rev. Charles W. Turner, Ph.D., Bible House, Avenida Erasmo Braga No. 12, Rio de Janeiro.

Bible Lands Agency, North—C. S. Bell, Box 747, Beirut, Syria.

Bible Lands Agency, South—Mr. H. Athanasian, P. O. Box 724, 62 Sharia Ibrahim Pasha, Cairo, Egypt.

Philippines—Rev. W. H. Fonger, Box 755, Bible House, No. 636 Isaac Peral, Manila.

Thailand (Siam)—Rev. Robert O. Franklin, 703 Sathorn Rd., Bangkok.

China—Rev. W. H. Hudspeth, M.A., Bible House, 58 Hongkong Road, Shanghai.

Japan Bible Society—Mr. T. Tanaka, General Secretary, Bible House, 2 Shichome, Ginza, Tokyo, Japan.

State Bible Societies Cooperating with the American Bible Society

Maine—Rev. Hammond I. Peterson, 19 Pine St., Portland.

New Hampshire—Edward A. Dame, 24 Warren St., Concord.

Vermont—Rev. Hugh J. Williams, Ph.D., 121 So. Willard Street, Burlington.

Massachusetts—Rev. F. K. Singiser, D.D., 41 Bromfield St., Boston.

Connecticut—Rev. S. W. Raymond, 278 Farmington Ave., Hartford.

Rhode Island—Rev. Selden R. McCurdy, D.D., 144 Westminster St., Providence.

Maryland—Rev. E. C. Powers, D.D., 9 E. Franklin St., Baltimore.

When The Peace Comes



Some day, and if God wills, may it be soon, peace will come. Then, for that world of tomorrow, let the Bible with its life-saving message be taken to every home,—in every land. For it is only through God's Word that true peace for all mankind can and will be known throughout the world.

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